

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /142 W

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R 011413Z JUG 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 881

INFO AMEMBASSY KAIRO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS

SUBJ: ALGERIAN POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA

REF: ALGIERS 1568 NOTAL

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF JULY 31, DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS MOHAMED ABERKANE REITERATED ALGERIA'S POSITION ON SAHARA IN SAME TERMS HE HAD USED JULY 18 (REFTEL). ABERKANE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN HIS VIEW BEST OUTCOME TO PROBLEM WOULD BE REFERENDUM UNDER UN AUSPICES LEADING TO SAHARAN INDEPENDENCE, GUARANTEED AND SUPPORTED ECONOMICALLY BY THE FOUR CONCERNED PARTIES (SPAIN INCLUDED). HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO SAHARANS BEING GIVEN OPTION TO MERGE WITH MOROCCO BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WOULD CHOOSE FULL INDEPENDENCE IN ANY FAIRLY CONDUCTED REFERENDUM. WITHOUT HEAT, HE REPEATED BELIEF
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THAT HASSAN'S CAMPAIGN WAS MOTIVATED MORE BY INTERNAL
POLITICAL CONCERNS THAN TRUE TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS
AND WOULD NOT BE PUSHED TO POINT OF CONFRONTATION.

2. COMMENT: (A) IMPLICIT IN ABERKANE'S ATTITUDE APPEARED
TO BE BELIEF THAT IF NECESSARY ALGERIANS COULD
PERSUADE ARAB NATIONS TO FAVOR UN RATHER THAN MOROCCAN
APPROACH AND THAT FOMIN BOUTEFLIKA, AS PRESIDENT
OF 29TH UNGA, WOULD BE IN POSITION TO ACCELERATE
APPLICATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON SUBJECT.

(B) WE CONTINUE TO BE PERPLEXED AT
MOROCCAN REPORTS OF BOUMEDIENE'S ALLEGED ACQUIESCENCE
IN THEIR SAHARAN CLAIM. ABERKANE, WHO HOLDS A KEY
POSITION IN CONDUCT OF ALGERIAN-SPANISH RELATIONS,
SHOWED NO HESITANCY IN STATING HIS GOVERNMENT'S
POSITION.
SIMPSON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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